

II. SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Edell for his helpful suggestions during a telephonic interview with applicants' representative, Michael A. Forhan, on September 11, 2009. The substance of the interview is reiterated below to satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b).

Applicants' proposed amendments to Claim 1 and accompanying remarks, which were submitted to Examiner Edell via fax on September 10, 2009, were reviewed and discussed. Firstly, Examiner Edell expressed a concern that the proposed amended Claim 1 might still be anticipated by JP Publication No. 406234337 filed by Kuroiwa et al. ("Kuroiwa"), since the seat cushion and seatback of Kuroiwa both pivot about the anchor member (as a unit) when the seatback is folded. The examiner suggested defining a first, simultaneous axis that is also a common pivot point for both the seatback and seat cushion. The examiner further suggested reciting that the seatback is pivotable about the first axis to overlay the seat cushion.

Examiner Edell also raised the potential issue of art not presently in the record relating to inwardly-facing seating (i.e., van-type seating) that might be combinable with Kuroiwa under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The examiner suggested considering adding a limitation or dependent claim wherein the seat is forwardly-facing, if appropriate.

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. § 112(1) rejection, Examiner Edell concurred that the proposed response satisfies his concerns.